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[342] [286] grass (Lasiagrostis splendens), often beautifully woven with colored threads across it. This woven belt is also used in the [283] yurt itself as a screen. When putting up the yurt, many different cords are used -- "arkan" /lassos/ -- among which the chief role is played by the "baskur," a woven woolen belt (up to two chetverts in width), which covers the upper circumference of the kerege, thereby giving stability and beauty to the yurt. The framework, which is completely made of the parts mentioned above, is covered with felt. Four rectangular pieces of felt are prepared -- "tuurlyk" -- which cover the kerege and lie on the lower part of the uka. Two trapezoidal parts, called "uzyuk," cover the "uka" up to the chengarak and cover the upper part of the tuurlyk. Six arkan, called "bau," are fastened to the uzyuk, by means of which it is drawn quite tight. Finally a rhomboid piece called "tyunduk" covers the chengarak. When this is opened, it takes the place of a window in the yurt and a chimney for the escape of smoke (the campfire is always laid under it). The door of the yurt faces northeast, in view of the predominance of southern and southwestern winds, and also is placed in the opposite "holy" direction (Mecca and Medina are [289] located to the southwest). The best (white) felt is used on the [531] yurt. Among the rich it is embroidered with colored threads and [286] even with silk and lace trimming. The baskur is woven in beautiful designs, while the yesyk is also woven of chiy matting. [531] All the wooden parts are painted, most frequently in yellow, brown, and blue.

[322] [412] [287] [462] [435] Special artisans, who are called uyge, prepare the wooden parts, and they do everything by means of a small hatchet (chapagot) and a small gimlet (uske). The felt is prepared by the women (usually of the whole village). They also usually put up the yurt. A good yurt costs up to 150 rubles, an ordinary one 80-100 rubles (in the Akmolinsk oblast).

/207/ The yurt described is not the only type, however. Besides it there are others that are used in special cases. Of these we shall mention the kosh, the dzholum-uy and the ablaycha. All of these are simplified versions of the yurt

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28 First among these is the making of articles of wool (sheep's wool and camel's hair), including felt, camel's-hair cloth, woven tape, and cord. The camel's-hair cloth ("shekpek") is made of fine threads of sheep and camel wool. The weaving is done exclusively by women (with the participation of two or three children). The loom, warp, etc. are prepared each time by a woman specialist. The camel's-hair cloth is used for clothing and in the economy (for bags, etc.). Decorative tapes of various widths ("bas-kur" and "uy-bau") are also woven from camel's wool. This work, when done by expert women, is not only neat and clean, but also beautiful in design. Much felt is also made (from sheep wool) and finds a wide sale among the Kirghiz /Kazak/, as do all the above articles. Sometimes colored patterns are rolled out on the felt. The making of felt is most primitive. The wool is laid in layers on top of matting, rolled up in a tube, hot water is poured on it, and it is beaten on the ground. Ropes are also twisted out of hair and wool. The Kirghiz /Kazak/, however, still do not know finer weaving. All the processes mentioned above are done only by women. Only occasionally do the men shear the wool from the animals.

The men work with leather, making shoes from it, and engage in carpentry and metalworking. /Illustration appears here./ The chief products of the latter are the framework (the kerege and other parts) of the yurt and vessels, saddles, and vehicles -- the arba /a two-wheeled wagon/ and the telega /four-wheeled wagon/; the latter being produced only recently. The metalworkers engage in the finishing of saddles, stirrups, and other parts of the harness. There are skilled appliers of silver and fine mosaic work (incrustation) on metal articles, in the fashioning of vessels and other objects of horn and ivory.

There is fishing among the /214/ Kirghiz /Kazak/ in the Zaisan and Chu regions and in part among the Ural Kirghiz /Kazak/, but it is not of great importance for them. All Kirghiz /Kazak/ have a passion for hunting, especially with a falcon or golden eagle, but less as a practical occupation than as an interesting sport and recreation. Hunting has a practical character for only a small part of the population.
1 [i.e. The domestic occupations of the Kazak --Analyst]